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According to a telephonic report from USUN, Usachev made the following comments to a U.S. official yesterday:

- 1) Soviet introduction of offensive missiles into Cuba was not motivated by any Soviet concerns with a missile gap; the sole purpose was the defense of Cuba.
- 2) Had the U.S. struck the missile bases, the Soviets would have retaliated against the "striking force." Usachev did not amplify whether this included hitting the U.S.
- 3) There was no relationship between the Cuban crisis and Berlin; the latter problem will not be heated up as a result of recent events.
- 4) Some good will come out of the crisis. The U.S. now knows what it is like to have missiles at one's frontier. There will be no repetition of what has happened now that people have come close to war. The way for broader talks is now opened.
- 5) There are no internal Soviet divisions over Cuba. The military are all Party people and controlled by the Party. They don't have as much voice as the U.S. military. (In contrast, the Canadians in New York have reported that Usachev has implied the possibility of internal struggle in Moscow at the present time).
- 6) On the Chinese-Indian dispute, Usachev said the Indians started it, and that it was a good idea to have it stopped now. He didn't specify the terms for stopping it.
- 7) The demotion of Krishna Menon was merely nominal; the Indians needed a scapegoat.
- 8) The Soviets liked dealing with Mr. McCloy.

Usachev was mild and reasonable throughout the conversation.

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